

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 9 December 2010.**

Present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Harmer-Strange, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Kemble (Chairman), Kenward, Livings, Marsh, Ost, Pidgeon, Rufus, Scott, Sparks, Thomas and Waite.

Also present:

Mrs Redman, Chair of the Standards Panel.

1. **FIRE AUTHORITY SERVICE PLANNING PROCESSES FOR 2011/12 AND BEYOND**

1.1 The Fire Authority has considered the outcomes so far achieved as part of the service prioritisation work, following the earlier approval of a set of principles within which the service prioritisation work would be conducted, as well as a timetable and methodology. In November 2010, the Policy & Resources Panel had considered the key findings of the service prioritisation work. The following outcomes have been achieved:

- A schedule of approximately 140 separate ESFRS functions has been placed in a draft corporately agreed priority order in terms of service with a separate classification for operational incident types that are undertaken by stations; and
- A schedule of the same service functions has been placed in a draft corporately agreed priority order in terms of value for money prioritisation using the same methodology.

1.2 There remains some further work to do prior to bringing the final outcomes before Members for approval. In addition, whilst some functions may have been determined as lower priority either in terms of service priority or value for money, it does not necessarily mean that they are either appropriate or suitable to be considered as savings and vice versa for functions deemed to be of higher priority. The outcomes achieved to date have helped with the value judgements made prior to Member consideration of the medium term service planning strategy – but they are not the only factors which will need to be considered over the forthcoming months. The draft medium term service planning proposals remain confidential until further consideration by Members in January 2011 bearing in mind current projections were very likely to need changing once the Local Government Finance Settlement was announced.

2. **EXTENSION OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS' APPOINTMENTS**

2.1 The Fire Authority has considered and approved extending the appointment of two Independent Persons who serve on the Standards Panel. The terms of appointment of Jennifer Redman and Michael LeGarst are due to expire at the Fire Authority's annual meeting in June 2011. Given the amended advice that had been given by Standards for England, and the uncertain future of the standards regime, the Fire Authority has agreed to extend the appointments of Jennifer Redman and Michael LeGarst for a further year until the annual meeting of the Fire Authority in June 2012.

3. **FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITIES – FUTURE STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENTS**

3.1 The Fire Authority has considered and approved the progressing of a joint business case for future consideration by the Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council regarding the future and progressive merger of West and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services towards a combination for a Sussex Combined Fire Authority in due course.

3.2 Members approved:

- i) the preparation of a joint business case for future consideration by the Fire Authority and West Sussex County Council regarding the future and progressive collaboration of West and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services towards a combination for a Sussex Combined Fire Authority in due course;
- ii) the creation of a Joint Steering Group to assist the officer team preparing the business case; and
- iii) a special meeting of the Fire Authority on 17 March 2011 to consider the business case outcomes which will then be considered by the West Sussex County Council Cabinet at its meeting on 22 March 2011.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
13 December 2010

